

## VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

### **VistA / CPRS FACT SHEET**

One of the primary missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the provision of high quality patient care to our nations' eligible veterans. Within the Department, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is identified as the largest, centrally directed health care system in the United States and provides care in 170 medical centers, over 850 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics and 137 nursing homes. In a continuous effort to meet the business demands within this massive setting, the VA has invested over 20 years in the development of a world-class health information system. The Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (**VistA**) fully supports the VA mission with an integrated, longitudinal health information and management system that is deployed to each and every VA facility and community-based clinic.

The **VistA** system is comprised of over 90 separate business packages that support the day-to-day activities of healthcare operations including: health data systems; registration, enrollment and eligibility; provider systems; management and financial systems; and education systems. The real flagship of **VistA** is the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). **CPRS** is an integrated, comprehensive suite of clinical applications that work together to create a longitudinal view of the veteran's electronic health record (EHR).

VA began developing **CPRS** in the mid-1990's as health care delivery shifted focus from inpatient, institutional care to an ambulatory, primary care model. Since 1997, **CPRS** has been an integral part of clinical care in the VA and is used by interdisciplinary teams of healthcare providers to record, create, archive, and access electronic information covering all aspects of patient care and treatment. The comprehensive cover sheet displays timely, patient-centric information, including active problems, allergies, current medications, recent laboratory results, vital signs, hospitalization and outpatient clinic history. This information is displayed immediately when a patient is selected and provides an accurate overview of the patient's current status before clinical interventions are ordered.

Enhanced **CPRS** functionality includes electronic order entry and management, free text and template-driven narrative notes entry and browsing, laboratory results display, consultation requests, links to scheduling and reporting, workload documentation, procedure reporting, medical image browsing, pharmacy profiling and medication administration documentation, and alerting for abnormal results, critical events and services needed in support of clinical guidelines. **VistA** Imaging provides a multi-media, online patient record that integrates traditional medical chart information with medical images including x-rays, pathology slides, video views, scanned documents, cardiology exam results, wound photos, dental images, endoscopies, etc. **VistA** Imaging is also operational at 75 VA medical centers.

**CPRS** organizes and presents all relevant data on a patient in a way that directly supports clinical decision-making and promotes patient safety. CPRS capabilities include:

- ◆ **Real-Time Order Checking System** that alerts clinicians during the ordering session that a possible problem could exist if the order is processed;
- ◆ **Notification System** immediately alerts clinicians about clinically significant events;
- ◆ **Patient Posting System** automatically displays alerts to clinicians on issues related specifically to the patient, including crisis notes, warning, adverse reactions and advance directives;
- ◆ **Clinical Reminder System** allows caregivers to track and improve preventive health care for patients and ensures timely clinical interventions are initiated; and
- ◆ **Remote Data View** functionality allows clinicians to view a patient's medical history from other VA facilities to ensure the clinician has access to all clinically relevant data available at VA facilities.

**VistA** is built on a client-server architecture that ties together individual workstations with a graphical user interface at every point of care. **VistA** also includes the links that allow more than 400 commercial software and products to be integrated with existing and future platforms. This type of integration increases overall functionality of **CPRS** and meets the documentation needs of providers in ancillary and sub-specialty care areas. The vast deployment of a common framework for **VistA** systems allows healthcare providers to directly access, retrieve and enter consolidated health information regardless of the VA site of care.

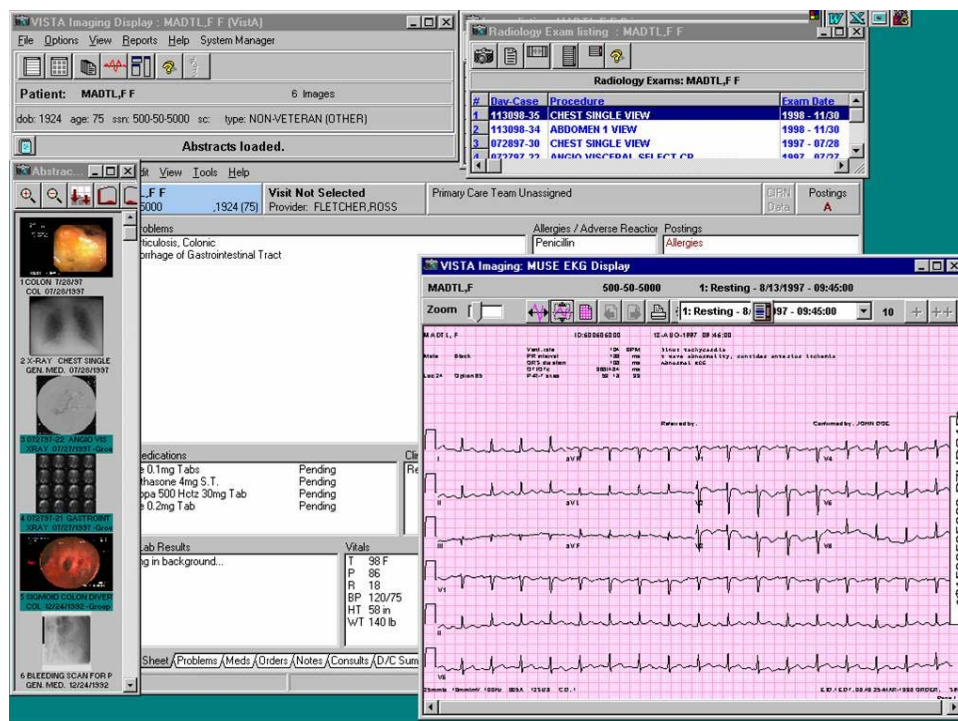
In addition to supporting a comprehensive health information system, the **Vista** framework provides for the safe keeping and privacy of veteran information with unique authentication and access privileges for all users. **Vista** systems provide health care managers with the ability to roll up day-to-day administrative and clinical workload into a corporate database. The management of a corporate database gives the organization the ability to significantly improve standards of care, health care outcomes and patient safety.

**CPRS** has continued to evolve since its initial deployment. The system is now being reengineered to allow greater customization and support for a wider variety of clinical and business requirements that include:

- ◆ Quicker, integrated access to clinical information
- ◆ Easier integration with commercial software
- ◆ Rapid enhancement of functionality to meet clinical and business needs
- ◆ Rapid deployment of new functionality
- ◆ Customization to reflect clinical workflow in different care settings

HealthVet Desktop, the first planned enhancements, was released in February 2004. This desktop includes a new Care Management application that helps providers follow up on clinical interventions, such as lab results, for panel patients. Care Management includes a physician dashboard, task list, and query reporting functionality.

To support the interoperability of **CPRS** with external health data systems, VHA recently established the Data Standardization (DS) program to develop and implement a common set of data standards for use throughout VHA, and to facilitate consistent health care delivery among government agencies and private organizations. This is a key component of the President's Federal Health Initiative and will foster improvements ranging from better quality of care and increased patient safety, to the production of a longitudinal health care model.



**CPRS** Coversheet is seen in background. Seamless entry to commercial products enhance EMR with imaging and EKG functionality.



Provider shown using Barcode scanner to correctly identify patient and administer medications. (Left)

Display of physician desktop using **Vista** Imaging. (Right)

